



Benefit to the American Public

Mission Statement

U.S. Department of State and the U.S. Agency for International Development

CREATE A MORE SECURE, DEMOCRATIC, AND PROSPEROUS WORLD FOR THE BENEFIT OF THE AMERICAN PEOPLE AND THE INTERNATIONAL COMMUNITY

The Department of State and the United States Agency for International Development (USAID) are the lead U.S. agencies for developing and executing U.S. foreign policy and interacting with foreign governments and international organizations. The Department and USAID are potent instruments of national power and provide political, diplomatic, humanitarian, and sustainable development engagement at every level.

Human suffering due to poverty, authoritarian rule, conflict and natural disasters can foster extremism, destabilize individual countries and entire regions, and as the American people have seen, pose a threat to U.S. and global security. The Department and USAID lead U.S. diplomatic and programmatic efforts to prevent and alleviate such suffering. The Department also works to achieve peace and security by promoting conflict resolution and prevention, human rights and democracy, combating the proliferation of weapons of mass destruction, and countering international terrorism that threatens vital U.S. interests at home and abroad. In the wake of the events of 9/11, such efforts are increasingly critical.

The Department continually utilizes its resources and influence to assist Americans who travel and live abroad. The Department issues U.S. passports, facilitates overseas voting in federal elections, evacuates Americans from conflict areas, and deters the entry into the U.S. of those who seek to threaten the nation, while approving the entry of qualified foreigners. The Department meets important homeland security responsibilities, such as combating visa and passport fraud, and protecting foreign diplomats in the U.S. so that terrorists do not hinder the day-to-day conduct of diplomacy.

The Department and USAID advance sustainable development and solutions to global problems that cannot be solved by any one nation. For example, the Department and USAID work diligently to support the spread and adoption of democratic ideals worldwide, promoting fundamental universal values such as religious freedom and worker rights, and helping create a more secure, stable, and prosperous world economy through accountable governance. While contributing to American prosperity, the opening of foreign markets to U.S. goods and services also results in higher standards of living and lower poverty levels in other countries. The Department and USAID partner with other nations to build education capacity and leadership development to promote a prosperous and secure world. The Department also offers the opportunity for Americans to learn from others and share expertise through exchanges. The Department and USAID work with other countries to promote a sustainable global environment, a healthy world population, effective migration systems, and strong international health capabilities, enhancing American security by protecting the U.S. from the effects of environmental degradation and deadly disease in an increasingly interconnected world.

The Department's and USAID's promotion of mutual understanding and international cooperation aims to increase foreign acceptance of American values and efforts. Since cooperation is a two-way street, not only will people of other nations come to understand, if not accept, American values, but Americans will also gain greater understanding of foreign cultures and values.